

SECURITY METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
CONTROLLING THE DATA EXCHANGE ON HANDHELD COMPUTERS

ABSTRACT

A method and system for protecting portable computer data from  
5 unauthorized transfer or using portable computers to download unauthorized  
data. The invention is applicable to any computer capable of transferring data,  
but in one embodiment a portable computer is described. Authorization is  
enabled by an interface permitting synchronization of the portable computer  
with a host computer by authentication of the particular portable computer  
10 identity. For instance, in one embodiment, when a portable computer is docked  
with a compatible interface connected to a host desktop computer, it is sensed  
and identified by the interface. If the particular portable computer identity is  
authenticated as authorized for that desktop, then synchronization will be  
enabled by the interface. The computers may then transfer data. However, if  
15 the identity is not an authorized one, then authentication will not occur,  
synchronization is correspondingly disabled, and data transfer is prevented.  
Various systems can enable the identity authentication.

09726822-112900